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HISTORICAL REMARKS

ON THE

C A S T L E

OF THE

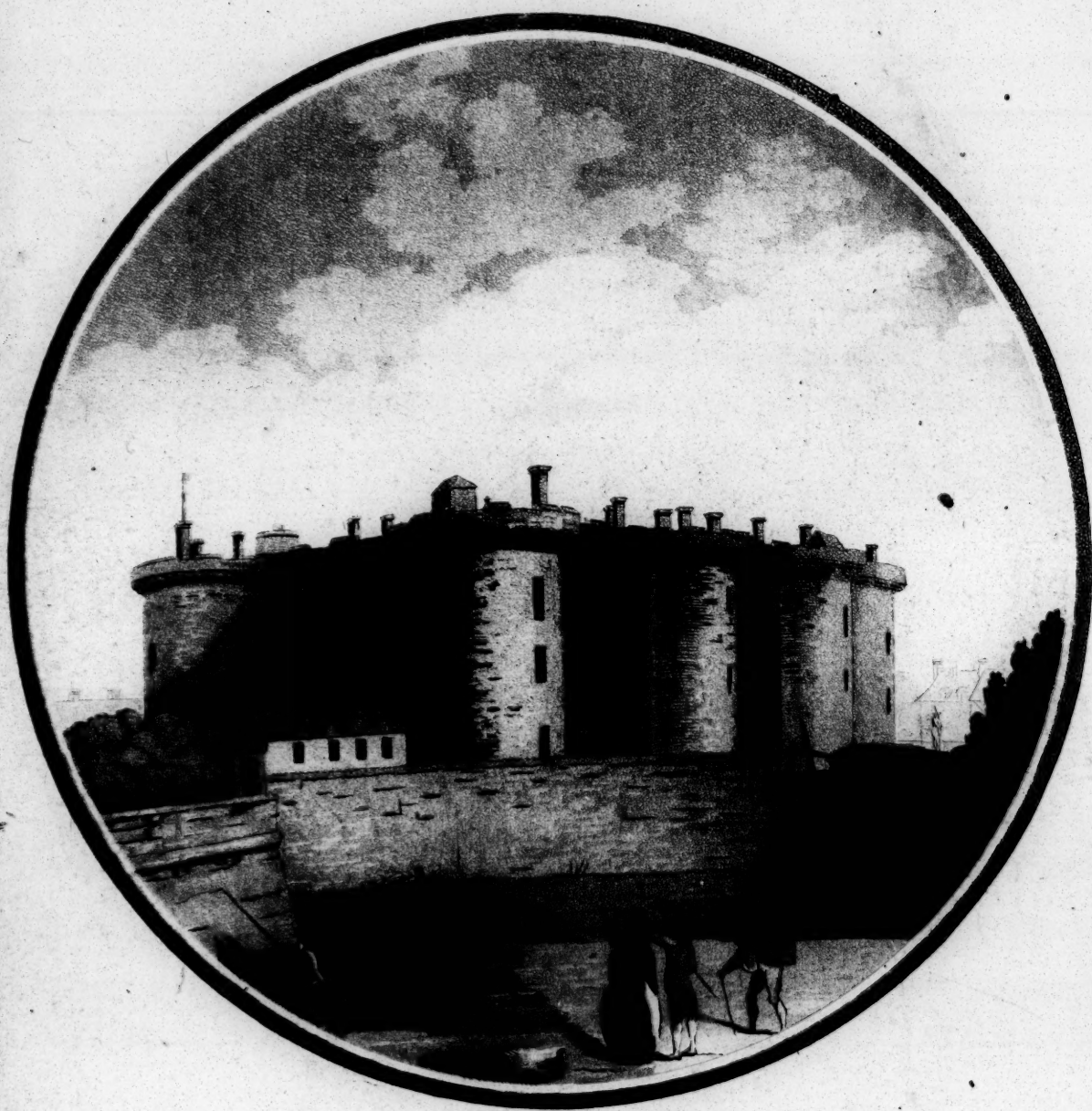
B A S T I L L E.



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VIEW OF THE BASTILLE.

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HISTORICAL REMARKS
Tho^s. ON THE *West*
C A S T L E
OF THE
B *A* *S* *T* *I* *L* *L* *E*:
WITH CURIOUS AND ENTERTAINING
A N E C D O T E S
OF THAT
F O R T R E S S,
&c. &c.

FROM THE FRENCH.

“The BASTILLE may occur to some of my readers, as an object concerning which some information would be acceptable. I am happy to be able to give this, by means of a Pamphlet published in 1774, written by a person who was long confined in this prison. It is reckoned the best account of this celebrated structure ever published; and the sale of it being prohibited in *France*, under very severe penalties, it is become extremely scarce.”

Mr. Howard's State of the Prisons. Third Edit. Pag. 174.

L O N D O N:

Printed for H. GARDNER, opposite St. Clement's Church, in the Strand; J. SEWELL, Cornhill; J. WALTER, Charing-Cross; and J. DEBRET, Piccadilly.

1789.



TO
JOHN HOWARD, Esq.

F. R. S.

S I R,

AS the revolution in *France* seems likely to contribute more to the general happiness of mankind, than almost any other occurrence in history; and as the demolition of the *Bastille* forms a principal feature of that event; permit me to dedicate this account of the Construction and Oeconomy of it to you; whose unwearied efforts to alleviate the misfortunes of the unhappy, have caused your name to be respected and
revered,

DEDICATION.

revered, in a degree to which no age or nation can boast a comparison.

Our countrymen may learn from this little Tract, not only to venerate and defend the principles of a free Constitution, but to feel, like yourself, for the unfortunate, of whatever country or condition.

Accept, Sir, the most sincere congratulations, that you have lived to witness the destruction of the only prison in *Europe*, except the *Holy and Apostolic Inquisition*, that was inaccessible to the benign efforts of your humanity.—May every other abode of the objects of oppression share the fate of the *Bastille*!

That Providence may again permit you to return to your native country,
and

D E D I C A T I O N.

and that you may long continue an ornament and blessing to it, is the ardent prayer of thousands; and of none more than,

SIR,

Your most obedient

and devoted servant,

THE TRANSLATOR.

London, August 14, 1789.

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P R E F A C E,

BY

T H E E D I T O R.

SINCE the liberties of the French received their mortal wound in 1770 and 1771, Despotism, that scourge which degrades and debases human nature, has gained amazing strength, and excited universal terror in all orders of men. The general turn of conversation is now of exiles, proscriptions, and prisons; and of these last the BASTILLE is without doubt the most dreadful. The office of spy and informer is so frequently and so ingeniously executed, as to excite a dread in the breast of every citizen, that he may possibly one day become an inhabitant of this abode of horror and despair.

B

M. de

M. de Saintfoÿ has remarked, " That it is safer to be silent on this subject, than to speak;" and I think with him, that a writer on this head may incur danger; but his labour will have a tendency to promote the public good, of posterity, as well as that of the present race of mankind. Fortified by this idea, I shall, regardless of personal considerations, beat the alarm to my fellow-citizens, and direct their attention to those shackles and bolts by which they have been so intolerably oppressed during three successive reigns.

Henry IV. was the delight of his subjects; their happiness was his; and his memory has ever been the common object of national veneration. Under his immediate successor it was that Liberty received her first wounds.

Richelieu, who reigned under the name of Lewis XIII. crowded the castles and prisons with victims; and even in his own house he had constructed a Vade in Pace*, where he sacrificed the objects of his resentment.

* For an account of this place, see p. 22, towards the end of the Note. TRANSL.

History records few reigns which exhibit so many instances of violence and barbarity as that of Lewis XIV. The voice of flattery has bestowed on him the epithet of The GREAT; but Posterity has very justly obliterated a title so little merited; she sees in that Prince an unprincipled despot, the slave of his passions, vain, ambitious, turbulent, and often cruel.

Under the last reign, whose characteristics were folly and inconsistency, the ministers trod the law under their feet, and erected in its place the standard of despotism. Lettres de Cachet were the means they used for dispersing and proscribing the guardians of the laws; and it may be truly asserted, that in the last reign, as in the two preceding, the Bastille, strong castles, and exile, were the grand wheels of Government.

While the arbitrary will of the Monarch, or rather of those who reign under his name, usurps the place of law, the Bastille is never likely to stand empty. It will therefore be surely of importance to impress the minds of the people with a description of that fortress, its regimen, and police; the sufferings of the prisoners confined therein, the tortures, traps, &c. to which they

are exposed. To this end it is that I lay before the Public the following Tract, just in the form in which it was left to me by its Author, some time since deceased. With regard to the annexed Plan, it was sketched by himself on the spot.

May God render his labour useful to my countrymen, by inspiring the present Monarch with a horror of despotism, and affection for the laws, which are the surest bulwarks of his safety, as well as of that of the nation!

HISTORICAL

Historical Remarks,

ᄅc. ᄅc.

THE *Bastille*, in its original form, stood at the entrance of *Paris*, on the side of the *Fauxbourg Saint Antoine*:—It then consisted but of two towers. The design of the castle was given, and the first stone laid April 23, 1369, by *Hugh Aubriot* (a),
Prevost

(a) *Hugh Aubriot*, born of obscure parents at *Dijon*, was Prevost of *Paris*, and Minister of Finance, under *Charles V.* He built the bridge formerly called *Le Grand Pont*, but the modern name of which is *Le Pont au Change*. The walls of the gate *St. Antoine* extending along the *Seine*, *Le Pont St. Michel*, and *Le Petit Chatelet*, are monuments of his zeal for the public good. This last edifice was erected as a restraint on the licentiousness of the members and students of the University. *Aubriot* was also the original inventor of subterranean channels for carrying off the water. The clergy united themselves with the members of the University to compass his destruction; they accused him of impiety

Prevost of *Paris*, who had been charged with the management of the new enclosure and fortifications of that city under *Charles V.* The two towers with which the castle was first built served as a defence against the attacks of the English; but there were soon afterwards added two, for the

impiety and heresy. The adherents of the House of *Orleans*, in opposition to that of *Burgundy*, to which he was greatly attached, joined in the persecution. He was suddenly confined in the *Bastille*, which he had himself but lately built; and was soon afterwards removed to the prison *L'Oubliette*. By their incessant intrigues, his enemies at last obtained his condemnation, and he was sentenced to perpetual imprisonment in this place. At the beginning of the reign of *Charles VI.* in the year 1381, a popular insurrection took place on account of the taxes. The rioters forced the gates of the *Hotel de Ville*, to obtain arms, and thence carried away between three and four thousand iron mallets; from which circumstance they obtained the appellation of *Maillotins*. They destroyed the prison where *Aubriot* had now languished several months—elected him their Chief, and forced him to accept the office. Of this honour he fortunately availed himself to compass his escape—passed the *Seine* that very night, and fled to *Burgundy*, where he resided unknown to his enemies, and peacefully ended his days. *Chronologie Manuscrite de la Bibliothèque Royale, Chronique de Saint Denys, Antiquités de Paris, Histoire de Paris, Juvenal-des Ursins, le Laboureur.* Hugh *Aubriot* was of the same family with *Jean Aubriot* (of *Dijon*), who was bishop of *Châlons* from 1342 to 1350.

purpose

purpose of retreat, fronting to and parallel with the first. The entrance to *Paris* was thus lengthened by two separate towers and a double bridge: the remains of the first bridge are still visible. The edifice was not completed till the reign of *Charles VI.* about the year 1383.—That monarch added four new towers at equal distances. He constructed apartments between the towers in the solid walls, pulled down the bridges, and surrounded the whole eight towers by a dry ditch sunk twenty-five feet below the level of the street. The public road was marked out in the form it has at present; but the *Boulevards*, and the moat which now surround the building, were not made till the year 1634.

The *Bastille* is situated on the left bank of the *Seine*, and near the Arsenal.—Its entrance is on the right hand side, at the end of *Rue St. Antoine*. Here is an advanced *Corps de Garde* and a sentinel stationed day and night. Near the *Corps de Garde* are the draw-bridges, to which there is one great gate; and a lesser gate leading to the Court of *l'Hotel du Gouvernement*, a modern building, separated from the Castle by

by a ditch, over which are thrown other draw-bridges, and which when passed lead to a *Corps de Garde*, separated from the great Court by a barrier of considerable height, armed with thick plates and bars of iron.

In the way to the great Court are two draw-bridges, five gates, at all of which sentinels are posted, and three *Corps de Garde*. This Court forms a square of about one hundred and twenty feet in length, and eighty feet wide; and here is a fountain.

To the right of the entrance of the barrier are apartments for the subaltern officers; and in these are occasionally lodged such prisoners as are destined to less rigorous confinement than usual. Near this building stands the *Tour de la Comté*; beyond which is the *Tour de Trésor*, so named from its having been the deposit of the immense treasure amassed by the Duke of Sully to carry into effect the great project of Henry IV. Beyond this tower, and about the middle of the Court, is an arcade which formerly served as an entrance to the city, and which contains several apartments:—
further

further on stands an ancient chapel, which has been turned into prisoners rooms; and in an angle of the court is seen the *Tour de la Chapelle*. Both the towers *du Trésor* & *de la Chapelle* are very ancient buildings.

The walls are of freestone, ten feet thick, carried up the full height of the towers, which they serve to connect; and in the space between the towers are several apartments for prisoners. At the lower end of this court is a large modern *Corps de Logis*, by which it is separated from a lesser court, called the *Cour du Puits*. In the middle of this building is a flight of five stone steps, by which we pass to the principal gate. We come afterwards to the stair-case leading to the upper apartments, and a passage through to the second court. On the right of this stands a hall where the Ministers, Lieutenant de Police, &c. interrogate the prisoners. This is called the Council-hall; and it is here that the prisoners are allowed to receive the visits of strangers: at the bottom of this place is a large and secure kind of closet, where are deposited the papers and effects which are taken from the prisoners.

Behind the Council-hall are lodgings for the subalterns, turnkeys, &c. &c.

To the left of the last mentioned stair-case stand the kitchens and other offices, from which run double outlets to the *Cour du Puits*. Above these are three stories; the first and second of which are appropriated to the use of prisoners of distinction, and such as are sick.

The Lieutenant *de Roi* has an apartment at the upper part of the *Corps de Logis*, and over the Council-hall: the Major lodges on the second floor, and the Surgeon on the third.

On the other side of the great court near the kitchens, and the *Tour de la Liberté*, are prisoners apartments, each consisting of one large room and a closet, commanding a view of *Paris*. The dungeons of the *Tour de la Liberté* extend under the kitchens; and close to this tower they have erected a small chapel on the ground floor. In this chapel are five small niches, or closets, with strong locks, of which three are formed in the wall; the others are only wainscot. Every prisoner
admitted

admitted to hear mass is put in by himself, and can neither see other objects nor be seen of any. The doors of these niches are secured by two bolts on the outside, and lined within by iron bars; they are also glazed; but before each is hung a curtain, which is drawn back at the *Sanctus*, and again closed at the concluding prayer. Five prisoners only being admitted at each mass, it follows that no more than ten can assist at that ceremony in a day. If there be a greater number than this in the castle, they either do not go at all, or go alternately; because there are generally some who have a constant permission.

By the side of the chapel, as you descend near the barrier, is the *Tour de la Bertaudiere*, adjoining to which are apartments for the Aid-Major, and other officers. In an angle near the barrier stands the *Tour de la Bazinière*; to arrive at which you cross a small court, having a communication by a strong double gate with the *Corps de Garde*. Such is the order in which are constructed the six towers, and other buildings surrounding the great court.

Passing through the avenue of the *Cour de Logis*, which separates the two courts, you arrive at the *Cour du Puits*. On entering this, you perceive at the bottom, on the right hand, the *Tour du Coin*. Between this and the *Tour du Puits* are several old apartments, occupied by the cook, scullions, &c. &c. as are also some others for the reception of prisoners; but these last are rarely used. The *Cour du Puits* is only twenty-five feet long, and fifty broad; there is a well in it for the use of the kitchen; but as poultry is fed, and ordure discharged by the cook in this place, it is always nasty, and often infectious.

The outside front of the castle presents four towers towards *Paris*, and four next the *Fauxbourg*. The tops of these towers make a platform connected by terraces, strongly made and kept in perfect order; on these the prisoners are sometimes permitted to walk, but always accompanied by a guard. There are thirteen pieces of cannon mounted on this platform, which are discharged on solemn occasions, and on days of public rejoicing.

On

On examining the PLAN annexed, it will be observed, that the *Tour du Puits*, which stands on that side next to *Rue des Tournelles*, is the first. Continuing to walk from this, on the outside, you will find, between the *Tour de la Bazinière* and that *De la Comté*, the entrance to the interior part of the castle; beyond which are the other towers that face the *Fauxbourg*.

EXPLANATION of the PLAN annexed.

A—The grand Avenue to the *Bastille* from the *Rue St. Antoine*.

B—Entry, and first Draw-bridge.

C—*Hotel du Gouvernement*.

D—First Court.

E—Avenue leading to the Second Court.

F—Gates of the Second Court, and Draw-bridge.

G—The different *Corps de Garde*.

H—The Great Court within the Towers.

I—Stair-case leading to the Council-hall.

K—The Council-hall (this building separates the two interior Courts).

L—The Lesser Court.

M—The Passage to the Garden.

N—A Staircase leading to the Garden.

O—The

O—The Garden.

P—The Ditch.

Q—An Outlet leading to the Garden of the Arsenal.

1. *Tour du Puits.*
2. *Tour de la Liberté.*
3. *Tour de la Bertaudiere,*
4. *Tour de la Bazinière.*
5. *Tour de la Comté.*
6. *Tour du Trésor.*
7. *Tour de la Chapelle.*
8. *Tour du Coin.*

All the towers are secured at the bottom by strong double doors, with enormous locks and bolts. The filthy dungeons beneath exhale the most offensive stench, and are the common abodes of lizards, toads, rats, spiders, and almost every other species of vermin (*b*). In
a corner

(*b*) It was in these dungeons that the tyrannical *Lewis XI.* confined those whose miserable lives he was desirous of prolonging by gradual torture; such was his treatment of the princes of *Armagnac*, who were placed in these dungeons, in holes sunk in the stone-work into the forms of sugar-loaves, terminating in points, so constructed to deprive their feet of rest, and their wearied and tortured bodies of all possibility of repose; from this miserable situation they were taken twice a week—to receive the scourge, under
the

a corner of each dungeon is placed a camp-bed, formed by planks laid across iron bars fixed in the wall. It is here they put such prisoners as they wish to terrify into any measure, and allow them nothing but a little straw for bed-furniture. Double doors, each seven inches thick, and fastened by monstrous bolts, are the entrances to these horrid and dark dens.

All the upper apartments are secured in the same manner; there are four, one above another, in each tower, the last of which is an arched vault, called *la Calotte*. All the inner doors are lined with plates of iron, two or three inches thick.

The apartments are divided into five classes.

the inspection of *Philip L'Huillier*, then Governor of the *Bastille*; and at the end of every three months they had one or two teeth wrenched from their jaws. The elder of these princes at length went mad; but the youngest was happy enough to be delivered from this dreadful incarceration, by the death of *Lewis XI.* and from his Records, dated 1483, we have obtained these facts, which could never have been credited, nor even imagined, without so positive an evidence. *Hist. de l'Ancien Gouvern. de la France, par la Comte de Boulainvilliers, Lettre 14. tom. 3. p. 226.*

After

After the dungeons, the most horrible are those containing iron cages (*c*), which are

(*c*) *Le Comte de Boulainvilliers*, in page 224 of the volume already cited [See the last note (*b*)], says, that it cannot be positively affirmed, that *Lewis XI.* was the inventor of the iron cages and dungeons which are found in the *Bastille*, in the Castles of *Blois*, *Bourges*, *Angers*, *Loches*, *Tours*, and *Mont St. Michel*. According to *Mezerai*, the Bishop of *Verdun* was the contriver of these cages. He had constructed some for the Castle of *Angers*, in which the first person confined was himself, and where he remained ten or twelve years. *Boulainvilliers* says, p. 225, that he saw in the Castle *Dupleffis les Tours*, the iron dungeon wherein the Cardinal *de la Ballue* was confined about the year 1430, and where, by the orders of *Lewis XI.* he languished the full term of eleven years. The walls, the floor, the gate, and the wicket at which he received his food, &c. were formed by strong plates of iron, secured by massy bars of the same metal. The last-mentioned Monarch had two of these dungeons constructed in the Castle *de Loches*. *Ludovico Sforza*, Duke of *Milan*, having been made prisoner, April 10, 1500, in a battle with *Lewis XII.* was conducted into *France*, and shut up in one of the iron cages of the Castle *de Loches*, where he ended his days. *Observations Hist. & Crit. relativement à l'Hist. de Charles VIII. dans le Recueil des Memoires de l'Acad. des Inscript.* p. 238. in 4to.

Lewis XII. himself, when Duke of *Orleans*, was made captive in 1488, at the battle of *St. Aubin du Cormier*, in *Britanny*. After having been led from prison to prison, he was at length shut up in an iron cage in the Castle of *Bourges*, during the space of three complete years.

three in number. These cages are formed of beams, cased with strong plates of iron; and are eight feet high by six feet wide.

The next class to these, are *les Calottes*, which are a degree more tolerable; these, the highest in the towers, are constructed of eight arcades of free-stone, and it is only in the middle of the room that it is possible to walk; between each arcade there is barely room for a bed. The windows, being made in walls of ten feet thick, and grated both internally and externally with iron, are capable of admitting very little light. In summer the heat is intolerable, and the cold in winter; though stoves are allowed in *les Calottes* (d).

Almost

(d) *Le Comte de Boulainvilliers* says (Letter XIV.) that the *Bastille* was chiefly appropriated to such prisoners as it was determined to destroy, either by the apparent forms of justice, or by the more summary punishment of the *Oubliettes*; which last was much in use with *Tristan-l'hermite*, *Prevôt de l'Hotel*, and favourite companion of *Lewis XI.* This man, of execrable memory, was himself judge, witness, and executioner. It was his custom to cause those victims whom the King delivered into his hands, to pass over a spring-trap, into which they fell on wheels armed with spikes and cutting instruments;

D

a milder

Almost all the other chambers of the towers are octagonal, about fourteen or fifteen feet high, and twenty in diameter ; the chimnies are exceedingly high ; and to come at the casements of the rooms, you go up three steps. The windows in all are double grated with iron bars, each as thick as one's arm. The lower chambers only look into the ditch ; and those above have but a forry light, on account of the thickness of the wall, and the consequent depth of the windows.

The most tolerable chambers are those which command a view of the country, of

a milder fate was allowed to others, who were either drowned with a stone suspended from their necks, or strangled in their dungeons. In this manner did the tyrant assassinate above four thousand persons. (*Mezerai, Abregé Chronol. T. 4, & Commynes, Liv. 6. Ch. 12.*) “ During the stay I made at the *Bastille* (says the *Count de Boulainvilliers*) I could not obtain a sight of the Chamber *des Oubliettes* ; but I saw in the *Chateau de Ruel*, which was the pleasure-house of the Cardinal *de Richelieu*, and now belongs to *Le Duc d'Aiguillon*, a closet which still retains the name of the *Cabinet des Oubliettes*. That cruel ministers caused the person whom he meant to sacrifice to his vengeance to walk into this chamber ; wherein they had scarce set foot when the floor opened by a spring, and they perished in a profound and horrid abyss.”

Paris,

Paris, and the *Boulevards*. For in these, though the windows are doubly grated, yet from the circumstance of the inner bars having larger interstices than those on the outside, a comfortable light is obtained (*e*).

The

(*e*) The futility of the extreme rigour and caution of the *French* Government is illustrated by the following passage in the *Memoirs* of the *Cardinal de Retz* :

“ The ninth day of my imprisonment, one of my two guards named *Carpentier*, approached me while his comrade was asleep (for I was watched both night and day at least by one of the two) and slipped a note into my hand, which at first sight I knew to come from *Madame de Pomereu*. The note contained only these words : “ Trust the bearer, and write a line by him.” He then gave me a pencil, and a bit of paper, on which I only writ that I had received the note. *Madame de Pomereu* had found means to become acquainted with the wife of this *Carpentier*, and had given her five hundred crowns for this first service. The husband was used to that sort of trade, and had not been unserviceable to *Mr. de Beaufort* in procuring his liberty. He is dead himself, and so are likewise his wife and family, which gives me room to be the more free. But considering that some unforeseen accident may bring to light whatever is set down in writing, you must give me leave to enter into no particulars that relate to the other manner of corresponding with my friends, which I had besides this, and in which some of the persons concerned are still living. It is enough that I tell you, that notwithstanding the changing of three exempts, and of

The greater part of the rooms have chimnies, the rest stoves, but in the dungeons are neither.

twenty-four life-guardmen, who succeeded one another, during the fifteen months I staid at *Vincennes* my correspondence was never interrupted.

“I received twice a week regularly letters from *Madame de Pomereu*, and from *Messieurs de Caumartin* and *d’Hacqueville*, which tended all towards seeking out means to set me at liberty. The shortest way was to escape out of my prison. I made two attempts towards it, one of which was suggested to me by my physician, who understood mathematicks. He took it into his head to file off the bar of the grate of a little window that was in the chapel where I heard mass, and to tie to the window a sort of machine, with which I might, ’tis true, have got down easily enough from the third story, wherein I was lodged, into the ditch. But considering that I must from thence climb up the wall, from whence there was no way afterwards of getting down, he quitted that thought, which indeed was impracticable, and we stuck to another which in all likelihood would have done, if it had not pleased Providence to prevent the execution of it. I had observed at the time that I was carried upon the platform, that there was at the very top of it a cavity, the use of which I could never guess. It was about half filled up, but there was room enough left to go down into it, and to hide one’s self in it. This brought a thought into my head, that upon the day that *Carpentier* was to guard me, and while all the rest of the guards, except his comrade, were at dinner, it would be an easy matter to make that comrade drunk. The man, whose name was *Tourville*,
was

neither. All the chimnies are secured at the top and bottom, and in many other parts, by
iron

was old, and a few glasses of wine were enough to make him dead drunk, as *Carpentier* had experienced more than once. I proposed to make use of that moment to go upon the platform, and to hide myself in the cavity which I have mentioned, with a provision of some loaves, and some bottles both of wine and water. *Carpentier* owned that this first step was not only possible, but even easy, and what made it the more so, was, that the two guards who were to relieve his comrade and him, had always had the civility not to come into my chamber, but stay at the door till they thought I was awake; for I had used myself to sleep in the afternoon, or at least to make my guards think so. *Carpentier* was to have tied two cords to the window of the gallery, through which Mr. *de Beaufort* had escaped, and to have thrown into the ditch a woven engine, which Mr. *Vacherot* had been working upon all night long in his chamber, by means of which it might have been thought that I had got up the wall, which had been made since Mr. *de Beaufort's* escape. This trusty guard was at the same time to have given an alarm, as if he had seen me pass into the gallery, and to have shewn his sword stained with blood, as if he had wounded me in pursuing me. This alarm would have gathered together the whole guard, who had found the cords tied to the window. They would have perceived in the ditch the engine I mentioned, stained likewise with blood. Eight or ten men on horseback were to have appeared in the wood that surrounds *Vincennes*, with pistols in their hands ready to receive me. A man with a red *calot* on his head was to have been seen as running out of *Vincennes*, and after having joined those
who

iron bars. The greatest precaution is used to prevent any communication ; for it was for-

who were waiting for him, he was to have marched with part of them towards *Mezieres*, while the others would have marched another way. The guns were to have been fired at *Mezieres* three or four days after, as if I was actually arrived there. Who would ever have thought that I had been in the hole I have mentioned ? They would in all likelihood have removed the guards from the castle of *Vincennes*, and would have left there only the soldiers that were usually in it, who had given leave to the inhabitants of *Paris* to come in for two-pence a-piece to see the window and the cord I escaped by, as they did those of *Mr. de Beaufort*. My friends had come thither out of curiosity as well as the rest, they had disguised me in a woman's or a monk's habit, or what else you please, and I had got away without the least suspicion. I do not think that any thing could have rendered the Court more ridiculous than my escaping in this manner. It was so extraordinary, that it may appear impossible, notwithstanding which it was certainly easy, and I am fully persuaded that the success would have been infallible, if one of the guards, whose name was *l'Escarmouche*, had not spoiled it by mere accident. He was sent to *Vincennes* in the room of another who fell sick, and being an old hard-hearted and observing man, he told the exempt, that he did not conceive why he did not cause a door to be made at the foot of the little stair-case that went up to the platform : the door was set up there the next morning, and so my project came to nothing. That same *l'Escarmouche* told me in a very friendly manner that same evening, that if his Majesty was pleased to order it, he would strangle me."

merly

merly customary for the prisoners to converse together through the medium of their chimnies, and not unfrequently to climb to the top, with the hopes of accomplishing an escape. Each tower is furnished with a privy, grated in different parts like the chimnies; some apartments have this convenience within.

All the chambers are badly finished, and in winter extremely damp and cold. Every one is numbered, and has its degree of elevation, and its right or left situation, marked. Thus, the *first Baziniere* is the first chamber above the dungeon in the tower of that name; then the *second Baziniere*, the *third*, the *fourth*; and lastly, the *Calotte Baziniere*. In the same manner the prisoners are distinguished by the name of their tower and the number of their chamber; thus, we have the *second Baziniere*, the *first Bertaudiere*, the *fourth Comté*, the *third du Trésor*, &c. &c.

The inferior chambers consist merely of four bare walls; on which, however, we read the names of the prisoners who have been confined there, together with a multitude of distichs, and other verses, sentences, &c.—A
bed

bed of green serge, composed of a straw mattress and curtains, two tables, two pitchers for water, an iron fork, a pewter spoon, and a drinking-mug of the same metal, a copper candlestick, with iron snuffers, a *pot du chambre*, two or three chairs, and sometimes an old armed chair, make up the common inventory of the apartments, which rarely can boast the possession of either poker or tongs.

Each prisoner is furnished with flint, steel, and tinder, and is allowed a candle every day; once a week a broom; a pair of sheets every fortnight, and four towels a week; and at the same time that they receive these, they return the linen that is to be washed.

Treble doors are here shut upon every prisoner; and the grating of the bolts and bars, and clanking of the keys, are truly horrible; the prisoners receive their meals from the turnkeys, who fetch away the remains, which are their peculiar perquisites.

The food of the prisoners is regulated by a book of rates according to their quality. Princes are classed at fifty *livres per* day; others at thirty, twenty, ten, five, and three *livres*;

livres; the lowest class, as servants, &c. is rated at two *livres*, ten *sous*. This allowance comprehends washing and candle; fire-wood is a separate article.

The kitchen is supplied by the Governor's steward, who has under him a cook, a scullion, and a man whose employment is to cut wood for fuel. All the victuals are bad, and generally ill-dressed: and this is a mine of gold to the Governor, whose revenue is daily augmented by the hard fare of the prisoners under his keeping. Besides these profits, which are indeed inconceivably great, the Governor receives a hundred and fifty *livres* a day for fifteen prison-rooms, at ten *livres* each, as a sort of gratification in addition to his salary; and he often derives other considerable emoluments.

On flesh days the prisoners have soup, with boiled meat, &c. for dinner; at night, a slice of roast meat, a ragout, and fallad. The diet on fast days consisting, at dinner, of fish, and two other dishes; at night, of eggs, with greens. The difference in the quality of diet is very small between the lowest rank of prisoners, and those who are classed at five or ten

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livres;

livres; the table of the latter is furnished with perhaps half a starved chicken, a pigeon, a wild rabbit, or some small bird, with a desert; the portion of each rarely exceeds the value of two *sous*.

The *Sunday*'s dinner consists of some bad soup, a slice of a cow, which they call beef, and four little *pâtés*; at night, a slice of roast veal or mutton, or a little plate of haricot, in which bare bones and turnips greatly predominate; to these are added a salad, the oil to which is always rancid. The suppers are pretty uniformly the same on flesh days. *Monday*. Instead of four *pâtés*, a haricot.—*Tuesday*. At noon, a sausage, half a pig's-foot, or a small pork chop.—*Wednesday*. A tart, generally either half-warm, or burnt up. *Thursday*. Two very thin mutton chops.—*Friday*. Half a small carp, either fried or stewed, a stinking haddock or cod, with butter and mustard; to which are added greens or eggs; at supper, eggs, with spinach, mixed up with milk and water.—*Saturday*. The same. And this perpetual rotation recommences on *Sunday*.

On the three holy days, *St. Louis*, *St. Martin*, and *Twelfth Day*, every prisoner has an addition made to his allowance, of half a roasted chicken, or a pigeon. On *Holy Monday*, his dinner is accompanied by a tart extraordinary.

Each prisoner has an allowance of a pound of bread and a bottle of wine *per* day; but the wine is generally flat and good for nothing. The dessert consists of an apple, a biscuit, a few almonds and raisins, some cherries, gooseberries, or plumbs; these are commonly served in pewter, though sometimes they are favoured with earthen dishes and a silver spoon and fork.—If any one complains of receiving bad provisions, a partial amendment may take place for a few days, but the complainant is sure to meet with some unpleasant effects of resentment. There is no cook's shop in the kingdom, where you may not get a better dinner for twelve *sous*, than what are served in the *Bastille*. The cookery, in short, is wretchedly bad, the soup tasteless, and the meat of the worst quality, and ill-dressed. All this must inevitably operate to the injury of the health of the prisoners; and, added to

other grievances, excites frequent imprecations of vengeance from Heaven.

The officers of *l'Etat-Major* have nothing to do with the œconomy of the kitchen, which department belongs to the Governor only, who sometimes will allow a prisoner permission to send into the city for provisions; but in this case it is sure to come very dear to his hands.

The common winter allowance of firewood to each prisoner, is five long pieces a day; but such as have any kind of recommendation to the favour of the Governor, are supplied with this article as frequently as they please to apply for it. Many of these are likewise allowed to have attendants, whose customary pay is twenty *sous* each *per* day, besides their victuals.

The whole eight towers are under the care of four *Port-clefs*, or turnkeys, only; who derived the name of *Port-clefs* from their having no less than five keys to every single chamber. The general bunch of keys to all
the

the apartments in a tower (as may be imagined) have an enormous appearance.

During meal-times, while the victuals are being carried in, an armed sentinel is placed at the bottom of every tower; and during the performance of Mass a sentinel is also placed at the door of the chapel, who comes on guard immediately after the prisoners have entered, and goes off just before they return from the chapel.

L'Etat-Major consists of the Governor, whose place, besides other appointments at courts, is worth above forty thousand *livres*; a *Lieutenant de Roi*, whose appointment is sixty thousand *livres*, and it is computed that he makes five thousand more; a Major, four thousand *livres*; an Aid-Major, fifteen hundred; and a Surgeon at twelve hundred *livres*: The latter of these acquires a very great profit on the medicines which are furnished by him, and which are all paid for by the King. The Physician has no residence in the *Bastille*, but has apartments allotted to him in the *Chateau des Thuilleries*.

The

The present œconomy of the *Bastille* has not had place above thirty years. Formerly, the Governor and *Lieutenant du Roi* were the only officers appointed by the King; the rest was nominated by the Governor, and were by him discharged at pleasure. There was also a body of citizens, called the Independent Company of Archers, and who were paid by the Governor to mount guard at the Castle. *M. d'Argenson* substituted in the place of these an *Etat-Major*, with a company of Invalids, consisting of an hundred men, under the command of two Captains and a Lieutenant. The private men are furnished with clothes, linen, shoes, salt, candle, and wood; and their pay is ten *sous per* day. The duty is hard; and the soldiers are never suffered to sleep out of the place without special leave from the Governor; this, however, is often obtained; the others doing duty for the absent, who remit to them in return a moiety of their pay.

No officer, in like manner, can dine out without leave; nor sleep away from the Castle, but by permit from the Minister.

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In the day-time, besides the five sentinels posted at the different inner gates, there is also one at the outside of the grand entrance to the *Bastille*, whose business is, to keep at a distance all idle gazers on the building.

The Major officiates as secretary, and all communications go through his hands. Every month he adjusts his accounts, copies of which he transmits to the minister in whose department the city of *Paris* lies, to the Controller-General of the Finances, and to the Lieutenant General of the Police. These accounts present at one view the number and names of the prisoners, with a statement of the expences. This officer receives his money from the Controller-General, and immediately makes his payments. The annual general expence amounts to more than an hundred thousand *livres*.

The Castle is surrounded by a ditch about a hundred and twenty feet wide. This ditch is always dry, except in the event of an overflow from the *Seine*, or after very heavy rains. On the outside of the ditch is a wall sixty feet high, the top of which is a wooden gallery

gallery with ballustrades, continued round the ditch, fronting the castle, and is called *The Rounds*. Two flights of steps, one to the right, the other on the left, lead to these *Rounds*, and sentinels are posted here day and night, who walk to and fro continually to prevent any attempts at escape; at night the sentinels are increased to four at a time. The officers and serjeants go their rounds every quarter of an hour, and by the *qui vive* discover whether the sentinels are vigilant or otherwise. Each sentinel has delivered to him certain pieces of copper, numbered and pierced with holes; these pieces they are at proper intervals to put on the point of an instrument fixed for that purpose, whose base stands at the bottom of a padlocked box. This box is carried every morning to the *Etat-Major*, before whom it is opened by the officers, who carefully examine the order of the pieces, and they form their judgment of the diligence or inattention of the *Rounds*. At the same time, they render an account to the Lieutenant *du Roi* and the Major of any occurrence that may have happened in the night; and all that has passed is faithfully transcribed from their report.

A bell

A bell is rung within the Castle every hour by the sentinel, to give notice that he is on duty ; besides this, another bell is rung every quarter of an hour in the night upon the *Rounds* outside the prison. The guard is mounted at eleven o'clock in the morning, and goes off at nine in the winter evenings, and ten in the summer. The bridges are drawn up between ten and eleven o'clock at night ; but every thing is thrown open (at whatever hour it may be) on receiving orders from the King.

The principal chaplain of the *Bastille* is appointed with a salary of twelve hundred *livres*. He performs mass at nine in the morning. There are also two under-chaplains, who have only four hundred *livres* each ; but these never officiate except on Sundays and Holidays, when one mass is performed at ten o'clock in the morning, and another between twelve and one at noon. The latter is properly the Governor's mass, as no prisoners are admitted to it but such as have particular privileges. Beside these chaplains there is a confessor, whose appointment is nine hundred *livres per annum*. The superannuated domestics retire on pensions.

This Castle has separate apartments for forty prisoners. There are at present * four whose confinement is to be for life ; and these are all, in some degree, deprived of their senses. One of them has been in ever since the affair of *Damiens* in 1757.

On the outside of the Castle towards the *Fauxbourg Saint Antoine*, there is a large bastion detached from the body of the principal building ; this was formerly one of the *Boulevards*, and formed an entrance into the city of *Paris*. It is now converted into a garden and planted with trees. The gate which leads to this, stands between the *Tour de Trésor* and *Tour de la Comté*.

On the left side of the *Bastille* is the gate *St. Antoine*. This gate is flanked by a bastion parallel to that last described, which serves as a garden to the Castle.

The Lieutenant *de Police* of *Paris* is a deputy of the minister to whose department the *Bastille* belongs, and has under him an

* The French copy we use is dated 1774.

officer, whose title is Commissary of the *Bastille*, and who has a fixed salary for performing what are called the *Instructions*; and beyond this duty he has no power, as he is never to act but by especial orders. Hence the whole government of this Castle appears to be arbitrary.

On the arrival of a prisoner in the *Bastille* an inventory is taken of his effects; his box, clothes, linen, and pockets, are examined to discover whether he has about him any papers relative to the object of his detention. With persons of rank this custom is not rigidly observed; they do not search them, but only request them to surrender their knives, razors, scissars, watch, canes, jewels, and money. After this ceremony, the prisoner is conducted to an apartment, where three doors are closed upon him. Such as have no servant must make their own bed, fire, &c. &c. They dine at eleven and sup at six o'clock.

For some time after their first admission, they are allowed neither books, ink, nor paper, nor to attend mass, nor to walk out, as the other prisoners do. They are not permitted to write to any one, not even to the Lieu-

tenant *de Police*, upon whom every thing depends, and whose permission must be asked through the medium of the Major, who is commonly ready enough to undertake it. They attend mass only every other Sunday. When they obtain permission to write to the Lieutenant *de Police*, they may ask to correspond with their family, and to have a servant or nurse with them. In granting or refusing leave, he is governed by the circumstances of their commitment. But nothing is to be obtained through any other channel.

The officers of *l'Etat Major* take upon them the conveyance of the prisoners letters to the Lieutenant *de Police*; they are carried to them at noon and at night, and are dispatched at any hour desired by an express, who is paid by the prisoner. The answers are always addressed to the Major, who communicates them to the party. If the persons written to have omitted to answer any particular part of the prisoner's letter, he may generally take it for granted that they have not been allowed to answer it. Such persons as have been refused permission to have their own servants, are commonly attended by one of the invalids, who, besides waiting on him

him always sleeps with him ; and it is necessary to be very guarded in what he says before this man, as well as before the turnkey, as every word spoken is carefully stored up in the memory, and reported to the officers, who again communicate it to the Police. It is thus they gain a knowledge of the prisoners dispositions, for every thing in this Castle is conducted by art, obscurity, and device ; and the custom is not unfrequent, among the attendants, turnkeys, &c. to draw by studied artifices from the prisoner, some disrespectful expressions of the government, and afterwards to give up an account of all that he has said.

The prisoners often obtain the re-delivery of their books, watches, knives, scissars, ink, and paper ; and may ask to see the Lieutenant *de Police* when he comes to the *Bastille* ; who sometimes sends for them some days after their admission ; at others, he visits them in their own chambers, particularly the ladies.

At this visit the conversation always turns on the subject of their detention ; and sometimes he will endeavour to draw them in to
deliver

deliver to him a written declaration, signed by themselves. As great circumspection is necessary in this conversation as if the prisoner were answering to formal interrogatories; for not a word is either written or spoken but what is reported elsewhere.

No favour is to be obtained of the Lieutenant *de Police* but through the Major; and when the prisoner writes to that officer, he must deliver the letters to the turnkeys. The most trifling convenience cannot be obtained without his leave, not even the liberty of shaving, which operation is performed by the surgeon; and it is by this officer that they are furnished, when indisposed, with sugar, coffee, tea, chocolate, sweetmeats, and the necessary drugs.

In the morning they are allowed to walk an hour for air, and the same time is allotted for that purpose in the evening, in the great court.

A prisoner may be interrogated in the Council-Hall in a week after his commitment; but it often happens, that they are confined many weeks before this takes place. Sometimes

times he has notice given him of the day; but it is much more frequently the practice to keep them ignorant of it till the very moment when they are brought up to the Hall. The Commission, or Council, is composed of the Lieutenant *de Police*, a Counsellor of State, a *Maître de Requêtes*, and a Counsellor or Commissary *du Châtelet*. When the Lieutenant *de Police* does not mean to interrogate them of himself, he seldom comes into the Court till the whole is near finished.

The Commissaries are mere men of straw, having no authority; but they make it their business to endeavour by all possible means to terrify the prisoner by threats, or entrap him by the meanest artifices, to make a confession. They create imaginary proofs, and shew him papers which they positively assert contain matter for conviction, but which they never allow him to read. Their interrogatories are always vague; they turn chiefly upon the private words and actions of the prisoner, which, as has been before observed, were clandestinely carried away and reported; but it is not uncommon to gratify any personal spleen they may have against the prisoner's friends

friends or relations, by remarking on imaginary impropriety in their conduct.

It is usual with those who interrogate a prisoner, to tell him beforehand, that his fate is at that moment in his own power; that if he will frankly declare all he knows, they are authorised to promise him a speedy liberation; but, that if he obstinately refuses to do this, they must deliver him over to a special Commission, who have in their possession proofs the most incontrovertible, and witnesses that must be decisive in operating his destruction; that his accomplices have made a complete confession; that the Government, as he well knows, has secret resources for discovery, which prevent the possibility of any thing being long concealed, &c. &c. By an infinity of intricate interrogatories they perplex and fatigue the prisoner, with whom, in short, according to what they discover of his disposition or capacity, they employ promises, caresses, or threats; and frequently are they treated with a barbarous insolence characteristic of the tyranny of which they are the execrable instruments.

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If the prisoner is betrayed into a confession, they immediately inform him, that though their power does not extend absolutely to set him at liberty, yet, that they have the greatest hopes of obtaining orders for that purpose, which they shall not fail warmly to solicit, &c. &c. The confession of the prisoner, however, far from operating his liberation, is sure to induce new interrogatories, to rivet still faster his own shackles, and most likely to endanger some of his friends or relations, at the same time that it increases his own misery by new acts of rigour.

In certain cases the *Instructions* are made up by the Commissaries of Parliament, who never enter the walls of the *Bastille*, but hold their meetings at the *Hotel de Gouvernement*, or at the Arsenal. The distinction made by the Minister between these persons and the members of the Council or *du Châtelet*, is, that the latter are *Royalists*, the former *Parliamentarians*, who are not allowed to set foot within the Castle.

The prisoners never receive any visits from the city till after their final examination; and to obtain this favour, even then, the most incessant

cessant perseverance in request, joined to the pressing solicitations of powerful friends without, are essentially necessary.

Permission may be obtained for prolonging the time commonly allowed for taking the air, or for taking that air upon the towers, in the garden, or other unaccustomed places, to read the news-papers, to join their acquaintance (if there be any in the place), or to eat or walk together; but for this it is indispensably necessary to write to the Lieutenant *de Police* and the Governor. Several persons concerned in the affair of *Canada* were allowed the privilege of being frequently together. When they walk out for air, they are always accompanied by some subaltern officer of the Invalids. Those of high rank indeed are generally attended by *l'Etat Major*. In the winter they are often invited into the Hall, where they are allowed to sit for a considerable time together, and occasionally are visited in their own apartments. The Governor himself sometimes condescends so far, to prisoners particularly recommended to his notice. But it never can be too often repeated, that the utmost circumspection must be

be used on the part of the prisoner in conversation with these officers.

The greatest precautions are taken that no other prisoners shall be met with or seen by strangers who may have been admitted to visit their own particular acquaintance. If a prisoner is observed out in the Court, while a party with a stranger in company is walking, he is hurried immediately into one of the little closets which are constructed even with the Court-yard, where he is obliged to remain till the strangers are gone away. When in their chambers, they are always under lock and key, and these are never opened but when they go to mass, to visit, or to walk, and on their return are immediately re-fastened.

One prisoner cannot visit another without addressing a note to the Major, for leave from the Lieutenant *de Police*; wherein the number and duration of visits are always to be particularly specified; and these cannot be made after all, but in the presence of some of the officers or turnkeys, which check is sure to render all conversation uninteresting; and there is besides, this remarkable order

observed, that the visited is on one side of the room, the visiter on another, and the officer attending in the middle ; this is an invariable rule, and on no account to be dispensed with ; and all discourse on the subject of their imprisonment, or that has the most distant relation thereto, is strictly prohibited.

It is very rarely permitted to a prisoner to receive a visit without an attending witness. The officers of *l'Etat Major* are entirely subordinate, and do not possess power to grant the most trifling concessions, without first applying for an express order from the Minister. A written report is made every day by the Major to the Lieutenant *de Police*, of the condition of the prisoners, the visitors they have received, and of all that has passed of importance in the Castle.

Although the regulations in this prison are very strict, yet there are occasional exceptions made in favour of persons having particular recommendations, &c. &c. for the first principle in the œconomy of the *Bastille* is arbitrary will ; and hence it often happens, that different persons, committed for the very same crime, meet with a quite contrary mode
of

of treatment, according as they or their friends have interest.

Here is a library, founded by a foreign prisoner, who died in the *Bastille* at the beginning of the present century. Some prisoners obtain permission to have occasional access to this place, and to read there; others have the books brought to them in their apartments.

It is very much the practice with the attendants, &c. to utter abominable falsties under the affectation of sympathy, and to endeavour to persuade the prisoners how much they are interested in their welfare. The following are customary expressions of this nature: “ How truly unfortunate it is, “ that the King should be so prejudiced “ against you! his Majesty cannot hear your “ name pronounced without being incensed. “ The affair for which you was deprived of “ your liberty, was a mere pretext, to gratify “ some spite which your enemies have had “ against you: Would to heaven those ene- “ mies were not so powerful! &c. &c.”— Such are the usual tones of consolation.

It

It is entirely useless for a prisoner to request permission to write to the King, for it is never complied with.

After all, the most intolerable torment of this cruel and detested Inquisition consists in the perpetual repetition of vague, false, and equivocal promises, and the inexhaustible sources of fancied hopes, which they are encouraged to entertain of approaching liberty; of these far-fetched conjectures and fruitless exhortations to patience, the Lieutenant *de Police* and other officers are extremely prodigal.

To obviate as much as possible the odium of their barbarities, and to abate the zeal of relations or friends, who may be anxiously employing themselves in interceding for the release of prisoners, the officers often propagate the most absurd and inconsistent calumnies, disguising the true cause of their detention, and concealing the real obstacles to their liberation. The resources for carrying on this deception are inexhaustible.

There is in the *Bastille* a spacious room, in which are placed a number of large cupboards, divided in the inside into drawers

ers and square departments, numbered to correspond with those on the apartments of the Castle; and in the division, answering to the number of his chamber, are all the effects of each prisoner deposited.

Every prisoner, on his arrival, sets down, in a book kept for that purpose, his name and quality; the number of the apartment designed for him, and an inventory of his effects, which are deposited in the closets, are also recorded in this book, which is afterwards presented to him for his signature.

In like manner, at the departure of a prisoner from the *Bastille*, a book is produced, containing prescribed forms of oaths, protestations of submission, respect, fidelity, love and gratitude to the King; of assurances that he is convinced his disgrace and confinement arose merely from a misunderstanding, &c. of acknowledgements to his Majesty for not delivering him over to the *Commissaires Extraordinaires*; of promises never to reveal any thing of what he has seen or heard during his stay in the *Bastille*. This list, which every one at his departure must sign with his name, title, &c. contains also receipts for the

the return of his jewels, money, and other effects.

A third book is kept, containing the names of all the prisoners, with an account of the expences of each ; a copy of which is transmitted every month for the inspection of the Minister.

The daily register of expences is only for the inspection of the Governor and his Steward, who has the management of the kitchen. The Major has nothing to do with it.

But there is still a fourth book of wonderful magnitude, an immense folio, or rather a number of quires stitched together, which augment daily ; and these are contained in a very large Morocco port-folio, having a lock and key, and which is kept in a strong double box. These sheets are divided into columns, each of which has a printed head as follows :

1st Col.	<i>Names and quality of the prisoners.</i>
2d Col.	<i>The dates of their arrival at the Castle.</i>

3d Col.

- 3d Col. *Names of the Secretaries of State
who dispatched the orders for
their admission.*
- 4th Col. *Dates of the enlargement of the pri-
soners.*
- 5th Col. *Names of the Secretaries of State
by whom were signed the orders
for their liberation.*
- 6th Col. *Causes of the detention of prisoners.*
- 7th Col. *Observations and Remarks.*

Of these, the sixth Column is filled up by the Major from hints which he has received; and the Lieutenant *de Police* gives him such instructions as he pleases, and whenever he pleases. The seventh and last columns contain a kind of history of the expressions, actions, disposition, life, morals, and end of the prisoners.

These last two columns are a sort of secret memoirs, whose fidelity and truth depend on the right or wrong judgment, good or ill will of the Major and *Commissaire du Roi*. Many prisoners are not mentioned at all in these two columns.

This book is the invention of the *Sieur Chevalier, Major actuel*, to whom it was given in charge to write the history of the *Bastille* from its first foundation; and this he performed, beginning it as far back as the records would furnish materials. When a sheet is filled, it is immediately added to this book, for the information of posterity; and a keeper of the archives is appointed.

Beside the matters last spoken of, a register is kept of all the orders ever given or addressed to the Governor of the *Bastille*, all the letters of the Minister, and from the Police; these are preserved with particular attention, and can at any time be readily referred to, when required.

As soon as a prisoner arrives at the Castle, a notice to that effect is dispatched by the Major to the Minister and to the *Commissaire du Roi*. In many cases, the Major is apprized beforehand that such and such persons will be soon committed to his care; and it now and then happens that a letter from the *Commissaire du Roi* delivers a prisoner by anticipation, some time before the King's order arrives ;

rives ; when which last is received, the Major carefully returns the prior letter.

When a prisoner of any note becomes dangerously ill, and they have good reason to expect he will not recover, they never fail to set him at liberty ; as it is particularly unpleasing to the Minister to have any one who has powerful friends die in the *Bastille**.

If a prisoner does die here, he is carried away and buried in the parish of *Saint Paul*, under the character of a servant ; and this false representation is inserted in the register, to mislead posterity. There is, however, another register, containing the true names, &c. of the deceased ; but it is very difficult to obtain a sight of this for the purpose of an extract ; the Commissary of the *Bastille* must first be informed to what use a family applying means to put the extract.

There is also in the Castle a vast magazine, called *Le Dépôt*, into which are put all such books as have been seized and prohibited from being sold.

* It sometimes happens that prisoners die in the *Bastille* by secret means ; but the instances are rare.

When the *Commissaire du Roi* (*Lieutenant de Police*) or any Minister enters the *Bastille*, the guards are formed into ranks to salute them as they pass, and the great gates are thrown open. The same ceremony is observed towards the *Marechals* of France. These last only are allowed to enter the *Bastille* wearing a sword; though Dukes and Peers have claimed a right to the same privilege, as we are informed by *Le Memoire des Presidens à Mortier du Parlement de Paris*, presented to the Duke of *Orleans*, Regent of the kingdom, in 1717.

No carriage is suffered to come within the Castle, except such as bring the prisoners thither, or are sent for to remove them to some other castle or prison.

M. de Renneville (f), who was confined in the *Bastille* eleven years and one month, regained

(f) *René-Auguste Constantin de Renneville* (the youngest of twelve brothers, who were all in the army, and of whom seven were slain in the service of their country) was born at *Caen*. His family was of distinction, and originally of the province of *Anjou*. After having served some time as an officer, he was charged with negotiations of great importance

regained his liberty on the 16th June 1713, and withdrew to England, where he composed two volumes, entitled, *L'Inquisition Françoise; ou, Histoire de la Bastille*, and dedicated his work to King George I. These two volumes were printed in 12mo. at *Amsterdam*, by *Etienne Roger*, in 1715, and translated into English and Dutch. This interesting performance is now extremely scarce. It contains a history of the different

importance at several foreign courts. On his return to *France*, he was made principal Secretary to *M. de Chamillard*. Some secret enemies, however, diffused among the Ministers reports injurious to his character, and he was thrown into the *Bastille*. Though no specific charge was ever brought against him, he was notwithstanding detained there during a space of eleven years and one month (from the 16th *May* 1702, to the 16th *June* 1713). He assures us, that he never could discover the cause of his imprisonment. On his arrival at the Castle, he was shut up in the first chamber of the *Tour du Coin*, where in former days *Henry de Montmorency*, Duke of *Luxembourg*, the *Marechals de Biron* and *Bassompierre* had been confined. It was in this same chamber that *M. le Maitre de Saci* (committed to the *Bastille* 14th *May* 1666, and detained there two years) composed the greatest part of his version of the Bible. *M. de Renneville* cultivated Poetry and the *Belles Lettres*; and his history abounds with passages which the best Poets of his time would not have been ashamed to acknowledge.

prisoners

prisoners whom *M. de Renneville* had an opportunity of being acquainted with during his long abode in the Castle. His descriptions of the various parts of the building are exactly conformable with what the reader has just perused: but the interior management of this horrid Inquisition is greatly altered since the beginning of the present century.

ANECDOTES.

A N E C D O T E S.

I.

CHARLES *de Gontault, Duc de Biron*, Peer, Admiral, and Maréchal of *France*, and Governor of the Port of *Brest*, at a time when he was loaded with favours by *Henry IV.* entered into a correspondence with the Spaniards and the Duke of *Savoy*, at that time the professed enemies of the nation, who flattered him with hopes of obtaining at their hands the sovereignty of the Duchy of *Burgundy*, and that of *Franche-Comté*, as a portion with a daughter either of the King of *Spain* or of the Duke of *Savoy*, whom they promised to give him in marriage. *Henry IV.* having discovered the plot, immediately taxed *Biron* with it, who denied the crime with unconquerable audacity. The Parliament of
Paris

Paris gave orders for his trial. He was found guilty of the crime of high treason against his King and Country, and condemned to lose his head, by an Arret of the 29th *July* 1602; which sentence was executed on the 31st of the same month, in the interior court of the *Bastille*. The iron hooks which were used in the scaffold on that occasion, are yet to be seen in the walls; for it was erected in such a manner, that he came on foot from his own chamber strait to the block. He was not above 40 years of age at the time of his decollation. His body was interred in the parish of *St. Paul*. There still remain manuscript copies of the process against *Charles de Gontault, Duc de Biron*, in the Royal Library, and in those of *St. Germain des Près*, and of *Paris*.

II.

Francis de Bassompierre, Marechal of *France*, born *April* 2, 1579, was remarked for his exemplary conduct, and particularly for his courage. His great reputation gave offence to the Minister, *Cardinal de Richelieu*, who contrived to have him shut up in the *Bastille* on the 25th *February* 1631. *Bassompierre* did
not

not regain his liberty till the death of his persecutor, about twelve years afterwards, on the 19th *January* 1643. He composed some memoirs in his confinement, and died in 1646.

III.

In 1674, *Louis Chevalier de Roban, Grand Veneur of France*, having lost his baggage in a skirmish, on its being rifled, certain letters were found which gave ground of suspicion, that he was engaged in a traiterous design to deliver *Havre-de-Grace* into the hands of the English. In consequence of this discovery he was seized, and thrown into the *Bastille*. The *Sieur de la Tuanderie*, who was his emissary in the business, hid himself immediately on hearing the news of his principal's arrest. Sufficient proofs not being brought forward against *de Roban*, a commission was created which assumed to itself the office of drawing up documents for convicting him of treason. *La Tuanderie* was discovered at *Rouen*, whither proper officers were dispatched to apprehend him; but perceiving his case to be desperate, he fired on his assailants, and was himself immediately killed on the spot. The friends of the *Chevalier de Roban*

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repaired every night to the *Bastille*, which they circumambulated, crying incessantly, with the assistance of a speaking-trumpet, "*La Tuanderie* is dead, and has confessed " nothing;" but this was never heard by the *Chevalier*. The Commissioners, finding that they could draw nothing from him, told him, " That the King knew the whole of " the fact, and was possessed of convincing " proofs; that they only waited his confession; and that they had authority to promise him a pardon upon the single condition, that he should declare the truth " of the matter." The too credulous *Chevalier* avowed the treason; when, in an instant, the perfidious wretches changed their tone, and told him, that it was true, they could not ensure his pardon, but that they had great hopes of obtaining it, and would go immediately to solicit it. Notwithstanding this promise, they felt no compunction in pronouncing, soon after, the dreadful sentence of his death. The *Chevalier* was condemned to lose his head; and on the 27th *November* 1674, he was conducted on foot to the scaffold, along a gallery erected on a level with a window of the Fencing-school, belonging to the Arsenal, which looks on a little square at the end of *la Rue des*

des Tournelles, where he was executed. The proceedings against him are to be seen in the King's Library, and in the Memoirs of the *Marquis de Beauveau*. *Cologne*, 1688, p. 407.

IV.

In the same year with that of *de Roban's* execution, the Jesuits of the College *de Clermont* having requested the King, *Lewis XIV.* to honour them with his presence at a Tragedy which was to be performed by their scholars, the Monarch accepted the invitation. These artful courtiers took care to insert in various parts of the piece many flattering passages which were plainly addressed to the Royal Auditor, who greedily inhaled the precious incense. When the Rector of the College was re-conducting the King from his seat, at the conclusion of the performance, a nobleman in the Royal suite spoke in terms of admiration of the merit of the Tragedy. *Lewis*, turning short upon him, said, "Where is the wonder? it is my own College!"—This remark did not escape the ears of the Jesuits; and that same night they caused to be engraved on a black marble, in letters of gold, "*Collegium Ludovici Magni*;" and this inscription

inscription they substituted the next morning in the place of an ancient one which formerly stood immediately beneath the name of Jesus, over the principal gate of the College (“*Collegium Claromontanum Societati Jesus.*”) A young scholar of noble birth, about thirteen years of age, observing their his zeal, composed the following verses, which he affixed at night to the gate of the College:

“*Abstulit hinc Jesus, posuitque insignia Regis*
 “*Impia gens : alium non colit illa Deum.*”

The Jesuits exclaimed against the sacrilege, as they failed not to term it; the young Author was discovered, carried away, and shut up in the *Bastille*. The implacable Brotherhood sentenced him, by way of favour, only to perpetual imprisonment, and he was removed to the Citadel of *l'Isle Saint Marguerite*. Many years after this he was taken back again to the *Bastille*. In 1705, when he had been thirty-one years in confinement, he became sole heir to the estates of his family, which were very considerable; and the Jesuit *Riquelet*, at that time Confessor of the *Bastille*, remonstrated with the fraternity on the necessity of releasing their prisoner

prisoner. A shower of gold, as it formerly forced open the doors of *Danaë's* tower, had a similar effect on the impenetrable fortrefs of the *Bastille*. The Jesuits assumed a merit with the prisoner, in the protection which they had afforded him; and that nobleman, whose family had been extinct but for the friendly offices of the Society, did not fail to exhibit the most indubitable proofs of his gratitude (*Preface de M. de Renneville, Tom. i. page 46—48*).

V.

The famous prisoner of the *Bastille*, generally known by the name of "*The Man in the Iron Mask*," was in the chamber called the *third Bertaudière*. This remarkable personage was refused nothing that he asked for; he was treated nobly, and the Governor never was seated in his presence. He was enjoined perpetually to wear a mask of iron, and was given to understand, that inevitable destruction would be the consequence of his making himself known. These circumstances gave rise to various conjectures. The Author of *Memoires Secrets pour servir à l'Histoire de Perse* asserts, that the

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Count de Vermandois, a natural son of *Lewis XIV.* and *Mademoiselle de la Valliere*, and highly beloved by them, who was nearly of the same age with the *Dauphin*, but of a character diametrically opposite to his, one day so far forgot himself as to hit him a box on the ear; that this action having got wind, *Lewis*, to send him out of the way, ordered him into the army; and gave instructions to a confidential agent to spread a report, soon after his arrival among his corps, that he was infected with the plague; which having had the natural effect of making him shunned by every body, he might with probability give out that he had died of the disease; and while he deceived the army with the preparations for his obsequies, he was to conduct him secretly to the citadel of *l'Isle de Sainte Marguerite*. These instructions were punctually obeyed. The next order was, that he should remain in that citadel till he could be conveniently removed to the *Bastille*, which was done in 1700, when *Lewis* gave the government of the *Bastille* to the Commandant of that isle, as a reward for his fidelity. The same Author adds, that the *Comte de Vermandois* one day conceived the idea of graving his name with the

the point of a knife at the bottom of his plate; that a fervant having discovered this, thought the opportunity favourable for making his court, by carrying the plate to the Commandant, and hoped to meet with an ample recompense; but the poor wretch was egregiously deceived, for he was put to death on the spot to prevent the possibility of the secret being divulged. Though these Secret Memoirs were published nine years previous to the earliest edition of *l'Histoire du Siècle de Lewis XIV.* as *M. Clement* observes in *Les cinq Années Littéraires* (*Lettre xcix. du 1 Mai, 1752, Tom. 2*). *Voltaire* boldly asserts, that all the historians who had written before him were ignorant of this extraordinary fact. He relates the story with but little variation, except that he omits the name of the *Count de Vermandois*. He adds, that the *Marquis de Louvois*, when he went to visit this unknown prisoner in the *Isle Sainte Marguerite*, always conversed with him in a standing posture, and with the most profound respect;—that the prisoner died in the *Bastille* in 1704, and was interred by night in the parish of *St. Paul*. The Author of the *Philippics*, (*M. de la Grange-Chancel*), in his Letter to *M. Frexon*, pretends that this prisoner

soner was the *Duc de Beaufort*, who was reported to have fallen in the siege of *Candy*, and whose body was never to be found by the most diligent search. He gives, as a reason for the confinement of the duke, his turbulent spirit, the part he took in the disturbances of *Paris*, in the time of *La Fronde*, and his opposition (in character of admiral) to the designs of *Colbert*, Minister in the Marine Department. *M. Poullain de Saintfoy* combats all these opinions concerning the Man in the Iron Mask; he likewise contradicts the date of this prisoner's confinement in the *Isle St. Marguerite*, fixed by *M. de Voltaire* in 1661, by *M. de la Grange-Chancel* in 1669, and by the author of *Memoires Secrets* towards the end of 1683. *M. de Saintfoy* asserts, that this unknown personage was no other than the Duke of *Mounmouth*, son of King *Charles II.* by *Lucy Walters*; that he had headed a party in the county of *Dorset*, where he was proclaimed King; and that having encountered the royal army, he was defeated, taken prisoner, and conducted to *London*, where he was shut up in the Tower, and condemned to lose his head on the 15th July 1685. *M. de Saintfoy* adds, that a report was spread about this time, that

that there was an officer in the army of the Duke of *Monmouth*, whose features and person bore a singular resemblance to the Duke's; that this man had been made prisoner at the same time with his royal commander, and had the heroism to suffer death in his stead. He quotes Mr. *Hume*, and a book entitled "*Amours de Charles II. and James II. Kings of England;*" and observes, to confirm his opinion, that *James II.* apprehensive that some unforeseen revolution might set *Monmouth* at liberty, thought proper, for the peace of his own mind, to grant him his life on condition of his immediately passing over to *France*. The Jesuit, *Henry Griffet*, who had long been Confessor (g) to the prisoners in the *Bastille*, having gained access to the secret papers and archives of the Castle, and without doubt seen the Register of Deaths which was placed in the *Depôt*, composed a very masterly dissertation on this historical problem. The Jesuit does not positively assert, that the *Man in the Iron Mask* was the Duke de Ver-

(g) Those Jesuits who had the fortune to be appointed Confessors to the King, never failed to place one of their own Society in the post of Confessor to the *Bastille*; which, though in itself a place of little consequence, yet, when it was in their hands, became the means of making discoveries, which aided the profound views of their infernal politics. This post is now hereditary in the Society.

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mandois; but he adduces many probable reasons to favour that opinion; and on this doubtful subject the suffrage of *M. P. Griffet* must be allowed to have great weight.

VI.

The *Dépôt* of the *Bastille* contains many chests of papers belonging to the late *Duc de Vendôme* (*b*), relating to many curious incidents in the history of that nobleman, and in that of the *Spanish, Italian, and Flanders* wars. These papers were seized from the possession of his natural son, who had been his sole legatee, and who was strongly suspected of being the author of a pamphlet, entitled *Les trois Maries* (the three MAILLY's). He was apprehended and put

(*b*) *Louis Joseph, Duc de Vendôme, de Mercœur, d'Etampes, & de Penthievre, General des Galeres, Grande Seneschal, & Gouverneur de Provence*, born the 30th July, 1654, was Viceroy and General of the Armies in *Catalonia* in *Spain*, from the year 1685, till the beginning of the present century. In 1702 he took the command of the army in *Italy*, where he defeated *Prince Eugene* and the *Imperialists*; and in 1707 made the campaign of *Flanders*. He returned three years afterwards into *Spain*, and died at *Vinaros* in that kingdom the 11th of June 1712. This man, ever memorable for his military exploits, and who was great grand-son of *Henry IV. of France*, left behind him no offspring, except one natural son, whom he made his sole legatee.

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into the *Bastille*, whence he was soon after removed to *Vincennes*, where he died. These papers are in a very damp place, where they will soon be rotten or worm-eaten; and posterity, it is to be feared, be deprived of these precious historical materials.

VII.

The *Sieur Vaillant*, a worthy ecclesiastic, but who had been unfortunate enough to have been concerned in the affair of the too-famous Bull, was confined in the *Bastille* from 1728 to 1731. He was a second time thrown into that prison in 1734. Some hot-headed fanatics were seduced, either by bribes or other means, to spread a report, "That this priest was *the prophet Elias*, lately descended upon the earth; that he was now in the *Bastille*, but would soon be taken thence and put to death." The partisans of this ecclesiastic obtained the common appellation of *Vaillantists*. In a course of time, the rigour with which he was treated in the *Bastille*, together with his own austerities, turned his brain. He harboured at times the idea that he was indeed the prophet *Elias*; and firmly believing that he should one day be caught up in a whirlwind of fire, he made no scruple of honestly communicating this opinion

to the officers of *l'Etat Major*. On the 26th of January 1739 the chimney of his apartment took fire, and he welcomed the moment, so long expected, of his elevation; but the fire was soon extinguished, and he remained under lock and key as usual. He now thought himself bound to make a serious declaration in writing to the *Sieur Herault*, Lieutenant *de Police*, "That he, *Vaillant*, was in no sense the prophet *Elias*; that he did not represent him, and that he had no authority for announcing him, or for acting or speaking in his name." Long solitude impaired his intellects. Having entered the chapel one Sunday to hear mass, he suddenly seized the vestments, put on the cope, &c. and began mass. The people called for assistance, and the Major came, and tried in vain to stop the priest, who, quite regardless of all about him, continued the service. The Major seized him, the priest resisted, and the champions at last collared each other. This scene deprived the prisoner from ever again attending the mass. He was afterwards conveyed to *Vincennes*, where he died.

VIII.

The *Comte de Lally* was near three years in the *Bastille*. He was of a violent disposition,

position, and one of his favourite maxims was, " That he knew no pleasure so sweet as
 " revenge ; which was truly the pleasure of
 " the gods !" He added, " The Parliament
 " will judge me with all the rigour of the
 " laws ; but the King will favour me and
 " mitigate my sufferings."

He had permission to have his secretary to reside with him ; and this man he wearied out with perpetual vexation. One day the secretary having observed in the great Court a quantity of coagulated blood, which had been drawn by phlebotomy from one of the sick prisoners, and which the servant had carelessly thrown there, he conceived an idea that preparations were making for putting him to death, and immediately became distracted. He was conveyed to *Charenton*.

The Major of the *Bastille* received orders to conduct the *Comte Lally* to the Palace, to undergo his final examination. *M. le President* commanded that officer to divest him of the ribbon of his Order, and the other insignia of his dignities ; but he refused to perform that office, which was immediately executed by the Hussars. The *Comte* was reconducted to the *Bastille*, and all visits in future,

ture, and permission to walk out, were prohibited. The officers kept him company by turns from this time till his execution, which did not take place till three or four days after his condemnation. In the mean time, his friends and relations took opportunity of passing in their carriage by the side of the gate *St. Antoine*, and before his window, making signs to him to anticipate his fate by cutting his throat; but all their signals were useless; the prisoner, absorbed in reflection, never cast his eyes that way, and left to the executioner, what, had he perceived their instigations, he would certainly have saved him the trouble of performing. The Major received orders to remove *Lally* into the *Conciergerie*, there to pass the night of horror preceding his execution, and to continue with him the whole time. Here he became reconciled to that officer whom he had ever before detested. The next morning *M. Pasquier*, a Counsellor of Parliament, said to him, "The King is full of mercy, and will certainly pardon you if you will declare every thing you know of your two accomplices, &c." *Lally* flew into rage, called *M. Pasquier* a perfidious man, abused him in the grossest manner, and poured out on him
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the most horrid imprecations and blasphemies. The magistrate gave immediate orders for gagging him; but soon after, the Confessor appearing, the gag was taken out of his mouth. He then made a feint of removing a little on one side, drew a point of a compass, which he had ingeniously concealed, and stabbed himself with great violence, with a full design of preventing the ignominy which was preparing before his eyes. The attendants however perceived and disarmed him, when he vehemently exclaimed "F——, I have missed the "blow!" The surgeon found the wound not mortal; he became gradually more calm, was confessed, and soon after executed, May 1766.

The family of Count *Lally* had by some means obtained a copy of all the proceedings at the execution of the *Duc de Biron*, and solicited that the Count might meet his end in the same way, but in vain. Yet it appears, that this family were less earnest about the fate of the criminal, than to recover the immense sums which he had remitted to *England*.

M. de Voltaire lately published *De Fragmens sur l'Inde*, in which he conjures the tribunal which sat on Count *Lally* to revise the decree by which he was condemned.

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We observe with a mingled contempt and indignation, that this old man, who is perpetually boasting his love of truth as superior to every other consideration, and who pretends to have inspected the most circumstantial memoirs and secret informations of this tribunal, only slightly glances in these memoirs at the means of justification which might be employed in behalf of the party condemned.

M. de Voltaire however deemed this sufficient matter for declamation against the Parliament of *Paris*, and, wading through thick and thin, to reproach them with the accumulated misery of two centuries, down to the time of *l'Arret en faveur d'Aristote*; without having the sense to reflect, that a noble mind would have scorned thus basely to seize the opportunity, when a number of the members of that body, the victims of patriotic zeal, were dispersed in exile, to insult them under the base idea of impunity. This is truly *the Ass's kick at the sick Lion*, as is well remarked by the *Gazette Littéraire de l'Europe*, for the year 1773.

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